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Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2003 session

(New York, 15-19 December 2003)

Summary

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its resumed 2003 session, held from 15 to 19 December 2003, had before it 129 applications for consultative status, including 47 applications deferred from its previous sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 69 applications for granting of consultative status and deferred 59 applications for further consideration (one application was withdrawn by an organization). The Committee had also before it six requests of reclassification of consultative status. Of these, the Committee recommended three and deferred two to its 2004 regular session; one organization was retained in the same category. In addition, the Committee reviewed 65 quadrennial reports.

The present report contains two draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would grant consultative status to 69 non-governmental organizations, reclassify three non-governmental organizations, and take note of 52 quadrennial reports.

By draft decision II, the Council would take note of the report of the Committee on its 2003 resumed session, decide that the 2004 session of the Committee should be held from 10 to 28 May 2004 and approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the 2004 session of the Committee.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant the following 69 non-governmental organizations consultative status:

Special consultative status

Actions on Gender Citizenship and Development

African Canadian Legal Clinic

American Planning Association

Antonio Restrepo Barco Foundation

Arcidonna Onlus

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development

Association jeunesse action développement

Association of Families and Women in Rural Areas

Avocats sans Frontières

Center for International Rehabilitation

Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims

Chilean Corporation for Children and Youth Rights

Christian Conference of Asia

Comité national d'entraide de la jeunesse et de l'enfance (CNEJE-Algérie)

Drug Abuse Information, Rehabilitation and Research Centre

Family Action Foundation

Fédération des organisations non-gouvernementales du Sénégal

Femmes solidaires

Fondation Mohamed V pour la solidarité

Foundation Partners for Local Development

Friends' Society in Social Service

Global 2000 International

Green Front of Iran

Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center

Human Rights Information and Training Center

International Academy of the Ecology and Life Protection Sciences

International Cooperation

International Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

International Native Tradition Interchange

International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development

Japanese Worker's Committee for Human Rights

Jeunesse Horizon

Kenya Medical Women's Association

Kindernothilfe

Lay Movement for Latin America

Links, Inc. (The)

Lokmanya Public Charitable Trust

Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation)

National Association of University Women of Romania

National Centre for Sustainable Development

Non-Governmental Organizations' Coordinating Committee

One World Trust

Partnership for Indigenous Peoples Environment

People with Disabilities Uganda

Press Council

Project One

Right To Play

Romanian Youth Association for United Nations

Russian Public Movement "For Civil Rights"

Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany

South Asia Partnership International

Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies

Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion

UMUT Foundation

Women Cultural Society

Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines

World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action

World Population Foundation

Zayed International Prize for the Environment

Roster

American Anthropological Association

Australian Association of Yoga in Daily Life

Comité Nigérien sur les pratiques traditionnelles ayant effet sur la santé des femmes et des enfants

Disarmament Archives

Fire Rescue Development Programme

Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration

Heinrich Boell Foundation

International Paint and Printing Ink Council

Nour Foundation

Outreach Trust

(b) To reclassify one non-governmental organization from special to general consultative status:

General consultative status

World Vision International

(c) To reclassify two non-governmental organizations from roster to special consultative status:

Special consultative status

World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis)

World Confederation of Teachers

(d) To take note of the quadrennial reports of the following 52 organizations (years of reporting in parentheses):

African-American Islamic Institute (1998-2001)

Airports Council International (1998-2001)

All India Women's Education Fund Association (1999-2002)

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) (1996-1999)

Association pour la Promotion de l'Emploi et du Logement (A.P.E.L.) (1998-2001)

Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement, Kairouan (1997-2000)

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) (1998-2001)

Centre de Recherches et de Promotion pour la Sauvegarde des Sites et Monuments Historiques en Afrique (1998-2001)

Centre Europe-Tiers Monde — Europe-Third World Centre (1998-2001)

CITYNET — Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (1999-2002)

Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlements (1998-2001)

Congregations of St. Joseph (1999-2002)

European Federation of Women Working in the Home (1998-2001)

Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA) (1999-2002)

France Libertes: Fondation Danielle Mitterand (1995-1998)

Global Volunteers (1999-2002)

Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation (1999-2002)

Ibero American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation (1996-1999)

International Association Against Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking (1997-2000)

International Association for Volunteer Effort (1999-2002)

International Association of Ports and Harbors (1998-2001)

International Chamber of Commerce (1998-2001)

International Council of Chemical Associations (1998-2001)

International Council of Women (1999-2002)

International Federation for Family Development (1999-2002)

International Federation of Business and Professional Women (1999-2002)

International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres (1998-2001)

International First Aid Society (1998-2001)

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (1996-1999)

International Union of Architects (1997-2000)

Japan Federation of Bar Associations (1999-2002)

Korean Institute for Women and Politics (1999-2002)

Miramed Institute (1998-2001)

National Association of Cuban Economists (1997-2000)

National Society for Human Rights (1997-2000)

Nature Conservancy, The (1996-1999)

New Humanity (1999-2002)

ORBICOM, Réseau des Chaires UNESCO en Communication (1997-2000)

Organisation Tunisienne de l'Éducation et de la Famille (1997-2000)

Robert F. Kennedy Memorial (1997-2000)

Rural Women Environmental Protection Association (1999-2002)

South-North Development Initiative (1996-1999)

Together Foundation for Global Unity (1996-1999)

United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation (1998-2001)

Women Justice Program (1999-2002)

World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (1999-2002)

World Federation of the Ukrainian Women's Organizations (1998-2001)

World LPG Association (1997-2000)

World Road Association (1998-2001)

World Safety Organization (1995-1998)

World Student Christian Federation (1998-2001)

Draft decision II
Draft provisional agenda and dates for the 2004 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and report of the Committee on its resumed 2003 session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2004 session;

(b) Decides that the 2004 session of the Committee will be held from 10 to 28 May 2004;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the 2004 session of the Committee as set out below.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.
4. Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat.

6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:

   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;

   (b) Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31;

   (c) Consideration of issues in the agenda of the informal working group;

   (d) Other related matters.

7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295.

8. Consideration of special reports.

9. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.

10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2005 session of the Committee.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

II. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

2. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 28th to 36th meetings, from 15 to 19 December 2003. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2003/R.2 and Add. 6-14) and also two compilations of applications for consultative status deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2003/CRP.8 and CRP.12)

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

1. Applications for consultative status

Applications recommended

3. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to four organizations whose applications had been deferred from previous sessions (see chap. I, draft decision I, para. (a)).

2. Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

4. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following organizations:

Advocates for Youth

African Community Resource Center

African Hebrew Organisation

Alliance Vietnam Liberte

Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace

American Conservative Union, The

Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum

Association internationale de boxe educative

Association of Expelled (Displaced-Exiled) Persons

Association Tunisienne des femmes Democratiques

Center for Victims of Torture

Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Conscience Africaine — African Network of Grassroots Democracy

Federation of IJAW Communities, The

Human Rights International Alliance

Indian Federation of United Nations Associations

Indian Social Institute

International Association for Science Parks

International Association Promoting Human Rights

International Centre for Peace Studies

International Crisis Group

Kashmiri American Council

Lawyers without Borders

Le Foyer Musulman, Association Internationale pour les droits de l'Homme

Morality in Media, Inc

Mountain Women Development Organisation (MWDO)

National Abortion Federation

National Coalition to abolish the Death Penalty

NIRDHAR — Women and Child Development Organization

Nonviolence International

One World International

Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation (Green Motherland)

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Relief International

Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses

Thirty-First December Women's Movement

WAMY International INC

World Council of Muslim Communities, Inc

World Organization for Education, Science and Development

World Sindhi Institute

World Trade Point Federation

World Vision Canada

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

5. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, new applications for consultative status, contained in documents E/C.2/2003/R.2/Add.6-14, at its 28th to 30th and at its 32nd to 36th meetings, held from 15 to 19 December 2003.

1. New applications for consultative status

Applications recommended

6. The Committee recommended that consultative status with the Council be granted to 69 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, para. (a)).

Applications deferred pending responses posed by the Committee

7. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the applications of the following organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee at its 2003 resumed session:

Agricultural Missions

All India Shah Behram Baug Society for Scientific and Educational Research

Australian Reproductive Health Alliance

Catholic Organization for relief and Development Aid

China Care and Compassion Society

Fazaldad Human Rights Institute

India Vision Foundation

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

International Justice Mission

Maharashtra Foundation

Mulchand and Parpati Thandhani Foundation

Saratoga Foundation

Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child

Stree Atyachar Virodhi Parishad, Nugpur

Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights

VIVAT International

Application withdrawn

8. The Committee was informed that Mazdayasnie Monasterie had withdrawn its application for consultative status.

2. New requests for reclassification

9. At its 30th meeting, on 16 December, the Committee considered requests for reclassification of the following organizations:

International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity

International Youth Hostel Federation

Minority Rights Group International

World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis)

World Confederation of Teachers

10. The Committee decided to reclassify three organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, paras. (b) and (c)). It decided to defer consideration of the request for reclassification of the Minority Rights Group International and International Youth Hostel Federation and decided that the International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity would remain in special status.

III. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

11. The Committee considered new quadrennial reports under item 4 of its agenda at its 34th meeting on 18 December 2003. It had before it memoranda of the Secretary-General containing new quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2003/2/Add.11-17). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 51 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, para. (d)).

12. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following six organizations:

Association Internationale des Mouvements familiaux de Formation Rurale

Interfaith International

International Association for Religious Freedom

International League for Human Rights

Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture

World Muslim Congress

13. At its 33rd to 35th meetings, on 17 and 18 December, the Committee considered deferred quadrennial reports contained in document E/C.2/2003/CRP.9. It decided to defer consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following six organizations:

Centrist Democratic International

Human Rights Watch

International Press Institute

Islamic Relief

Society for Threatened Peoples

Transnational Radical Party

Human Rights Watch

14. The Committee considered the response of Human Rights Watch to the questions addressed to it during the previous sessions. Several members expressed their appreciation for the work of the NGO. However, one delegation suggested that the organization should be moving from international to globalized perspective since now not only States but also other stakeholders such as NGOs and transnational corporations are also to be held accountable for protecting human rights.

15. One delegation expressed its dissatisfaction at the organization's replies to the questions put to it by the Committee, in particular its response to the question on its statement regarding members of the Commission on Human Rights who use their voting power to weaken the protective function of the human rights system. The request for clarification included the question of possible connection of this issue with Governments who are more isolated in multilateral forums on human rights.

16. One delegation questioned the right of the Committee to seek to impose a framework for action on NGOs beyond the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, adding that the discussion in the Committee should be germane to the report under review.

17. Another delegation sought clarification on the NGO's process of assigning greater and lesser importance to some rights over their interventions. The Committee decided to forward new questions to the NGO and to consider its response at the next session.

18. In this context, a number of delegations expressed their concern at the accumulating number of quadrennial reports to be reviewed by the Committee every other year, and proposed that this important issue be placed on the agenda of the informal working group for its consideration.

IV. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat

19. At its 35th meeting, on 18 December 2003, the Committee considered the following issues under item 5 of its agenda.

A. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section

20. The Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, briefed the Committee on the present staffing capacities of the Section. She recalled the Committee's decision in 1999 requesting that the Section be provided adequate resources to carry out its responsibilities efficiently, effectively and expeditiously. She noted that over the past four years the Section had received some additional support. She also reported that the Fifth Committee, in the proposed budget, has since recommended establishing a P-5 post for the biennium 2004-2005.

B. Strengthening the Paperless Committee

21. The Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section subsequently made a presentation before the Committee on the strengthening of the NGO Section, with specific reference to the "Paperless Committee". She reviewed the evolution of the "Paperless Committee" and recalled that the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee had supported the implementation of the "Paperless Committee" project through a draft resolution at its 2003 regular session. She informed the Committee that World Job and Food Bank, Canada, an NGO in consultative status, had offered to support the implementation of the Paperless Committee by donating all of the equipment for the project. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section had followed United Nations procedures related to voluntary contributions. The delegates supported the "Paperless Committee" project and hoped that the Committee will have the laptops to work with at the next session.

V. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

A. Working group established to review some aspects of the work of the Committee

22. At its 33rd meeting, on 17 December 2003, Mr. Hakan Tekin (Turkey), Chair of the informal working group of the Committee, reported on the work of the working group. He said that the informal working group had been able to meet only once since the last session in May to discuss the report of the Committee. The working group had had a fruitful but inconclusive exchange of views on both the format and issuance of the report. The working group had proposed that it formulate guidelines for the preparation of the report. Mr. Tekin planned to schedule other

meetings of the working group in order to reach consensus on proposals concerning the report before the regular session of the Committee in May 2004.

B. Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

23. There was no such organization to be considered by the Committee.

C. Other related matters

1. United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Liaison Office at Geneva

24. At the 33rd meeting of the Committee, on 17 December, Mr. Ricardo Espinosa, the NGO Liaison Officer at the United Nations Office at Geneva, outlined the diverse support services that his Office delivers to NGOs, permanent missions, agencies, programmes and departments of the United Nations, as well as to the public at large. These services include: maintaining an accreditation system for 2,400 NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and for over 15,000 of their representatives in an annually updated database; providing technical support and facilities to the nearly 120 meetings organized by NGOs; and oversight of the approximately 4,000 other meetings involving NGOs in consultative status that take place every year in Geneva.

25. As one of the main objectives of the NGO Liaison Office at the United Nations Office at Geneva is to promote the efficient and responsible utilization of the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, it participates in thematic debates organized by or for NGOs and organizes training and information sessions on consultative status, as well as regular meetings of NGO focal points of United Nations agencies, programmes and departments based in Geneva. His Office has likewise contributed to the gatherings at the Palais des Nations of consultative and closed sessions of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations.

26. Mr. Espinosa emphasized that the NGO Liaison Office at Geneva has maintained and will continue to maintain intimate contact and close collaboration with the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, especially on projects such as the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE).

2. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

27. Also at its 33rd meeting, on 17 December, the Committee heard Ms. Aditi Desai, a representative of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). The Fund, headed by the Director-General of the United Nations, which was established in 1998 with a donation of $1 billion from Mr. Ted Turner, in support of the United Nations agenda, serves as the operational arm of the Secretary-General's reform policy to forge partnerships with civil society. In order to manage the high number of proposals received, UNFIP identified in cooperation with the United Nations, four priority areas for funding, including programmes for

children's health, environmental issues, women and population, and peace, security and human rights.

28. The Fund developed high impact projects, in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation, and encouraged greater private sector investment in innovative projects to implement the Millennium Development Goals. She pointed out that efforts were made to get additional funding for high impact projects and underlined that best practices and lessons learned were shared with partners.

3. Briefing on the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations

29. At its 37th meeting, on 19 December, the Committee was briefed on the programme and objectives of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations by Ms. Mary Racelis, member of the Panel, and Mr. John Clark, Project Manager of the Panel.

30. The Committee was informed that the 13-member panel, established by the Secretary-General in April 2003, had consulted with a broad range of civil society constituencies, including NGOs, local government authorities, parliamentarians, indigenous peoples' groups, trade unions and others. The Panel was in the process of drafting its report, which contained two sets of recommendations: those the Secretary-General could carry on his own, and recommendations requiring consultations with the General Assembly. One of the issues to be addressed was a definition of civil society. Another aspect was to identify ways for civil society to interact with the United Nations without being physically present in New York, Geneva or Vienna. She pointed out that civil society might be satisfied with having access to national or regional United Nations bodies on issues of particular concern, thereby alleviating the backlog of the accreditation process. The Panel was looking at the implications of building alliances between Governments and other actors in addressing global issues.

VI. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295

31. Owing to time constraints, the Committee could not consider, under agenda item 6, the requests for consultative status of the Environmental Protection Society placed on the Roster for the purpose of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see E/2003/CRP.10). According to Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295, the NGOs referred to in its decision 1993/220 that wished to expand their participation in other fields of the Council would be considered by the Committee as expeditiously as possible under an item of its agenda, following the rules and provisions stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

VII. Consideration of special reports and complaints by Member States

32. The Committee considered agenda item 8 at its 32nd and 36th meetings, on 17 and 19 December. It had before it documents E/C.2/2002/3; E/C.2/2002/3/Add.1; E/C.2/2002/3/Add.2; E/C.2/2003/3; and E/C.2/2003/3/Add.2.

A. Consideration of special reports

Transnational Radical Party

33. At its 2002 regular session, Viet Nam had lodged a complaint against the Transnational Radical Party for providing accreditation to a terrorist group, the Montagnard Foundation, Inc. (MFI), an arm of a larger terrorist organization known as Le Front Unifié pour la Liberation de Races Opprimées, (FULRO), which allowed a representative to speak at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The representative of Viet Nam requested that the organization explain its improper actions in a special report to be submitted to the Committee's resumed 2002 session.

34. At the resumed 2002 session, the representative of Viet Nam stated that he was not satisfied with the report submitted by the Transnational Radical Party and requested it to extend an official apology and a commitment in writing not to accredit MFI at any Council meeting in the future. Accordingly, the organization was requested by the Committee to submit a supplementary report to the 2003 regular session, including information on the activities carried out by the organization.

35. At its 2003 regular session, the Committee had before it the new supplementary report submitted by the organization, which was considered unsatisfactory by the representative of Viet Nam. The representative requested that the organization present an official apology to the Government of Viet Nam, in writing in which it should also explain the reasons for its behaviour. (See E/2003/32/ Part II, paras. 67-77).

36. As a result of the debate, the Committee decided to ask the Transnational Radical Party to further clarify its position on the accusations made by the representative of Viet Nam. At its 32nd meeting, on 17 December, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the reply provided by the organization to its next regular session in 2004.

Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"

37. At its 2003 regular session, the Committee had before it a complaint lodged by the United States of America against the organization, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", a international organization with special consultative status with the Council. The United States representative stated that during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, two representatives of the organization, had rushed towards the United States delegation carrying a large cylindrical object. While facing the camera of a Cuban television crew, these two individuals had unfurled a banner and chanted anti-American slogans. The United States representative said that this behaviour constituted an abuse of the organization's

status with the Economic and Social Council and its conduct consisted of politically motivated acts taken against a Member State. In addition, the actions of these two individuals alarmed the United States delegates, especially during these times of heightened concern about terrorism. The United States delegation therefore requested a report on the incident from the organization.

38. The Committee decided that the report with the explanations requested by the United States delegate be submitted for consideration by the Committee at its 2003 resumed session. A member of the Committee also requested that the two letters sent by the organization, one to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights and the other to the Head of Security and Safety Services of the United Nations, expressing its regrets for the situation, explaining that it was a personal decision taken by the individual engaged in the incident.

39. At its 2003 resumed session, on 17 December, the Committee considered the special report and the two letters addressed by the organization. The representative of the United States found the report unsatisfactory, stating that the NGO had attempted to distance itself from the individuals involved in the situation. He underscored the seriousness of the incident. He said that the consequence for this misconduct should entail the suspension of status for the organization. Noting that there were over 2,000 NGOs in consultative status, he believed that if that conduct would go unsanctioned, the Commission on Human Rights and other meetings would face an ever-increasing number of such incidents.

40. A number of delegations indicated that they were ready to take note of the special report, pointing out that previously in similar situations, the issue had been closed after apologies from the organization and review of the special report by the Committee. Noting that the NGO had given ample details of the incident, explaining that Ms. Bonavita had acted on her own and that her accreditation was immediately withdrawn after the incident, and that it had also apologized for the incident, they underlined that it was important to have consistency in the work of the Committee.

41. However, other delegations, supporting the position of the United States, thought that such a situation could create a precedent if no action was taken, sending the wrong signal to other NGOs. They believed that a representative from the NGO should be heard by the Committee to respond to the questions of its members before any action was taken. The Committee requested the Secretariat to extend an invitation to the NGO to send a representative to the 2004 regular session of the Committee.

B. Complaints submitted by Member States

42. At its 2003 resumed session, the Committee had before it the complaints made by the Member States against three NGOs, as described below.

Simon Wiesenthal Centre

43. At its regular session in May 2003, the Committee was informed that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had lodged a complaint against the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, an organization with special consultative status with the Council, for having distributed a letter urging Member States to oppose the candidacy of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which was endorsed by the African group, for the chairmanship of

the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya declared that the organization had interfered in the affairs of the Member States, thus violating the rules of conduct as stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. He requested that the Centre send a letter of apology, giving assurances that it would refrain from such action in the future.

44. The Committee, not having found itself in a position to address the issue at its 2003 regular session, had decided to defer consideration of the complaint to its 2003 resumed session.

45. At its 2003 resumed session, on 19 December, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the matter to its next session in May 2004. The delegate of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expressed his deep disappointment that the issue was deferred a second time. He stated however, that he was working with the other delegations to reach a consensus on the decision the Committee could take on the issue. He expressed the hope that a letter could be addressed by the Chair to the organization to inform the NGO that it could not, in future intervene in the affairs of Member States and should abide by the principles stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

Liberation and Interfaith International

46. At its 32nd meeting, on 17 December 2003, the Committee had before it a complaint lodged by the delegation of Bangladesh against two NGOs, Liberation, on the Roster, and Interfaith International, in special consultative status, with the Council.

47. The representative of Bangladesh, speaking as an Observer, explained that the two organizations had, during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, distributed materials on Bangladesh on behalf of the Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Unity Council and the Asian Human Rights Centre. Another organization, the Asian Human Rights Commission, a sister organization of the Asian Legal Resource Centre, an organization in general consultative status with the Council, had also distributed documents that contained politically motivated and unsubstantiated material on Bangladesh at the same session of the Commission. The representative of Bangladesh requested that the Committee take appropriate action. During the ensuing debate, a number of delegations expressed serious concern that such behaviour seemed to be increasing during the sessions of the commission.

48. The Committee decided to write a letter to the NGOs concerned, drafted by the informal working group and adopted by the Committee in 2002, reminding the organizations of their responsibilities as stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

VIII. General Voluntary Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

49. At its 33rd meeting on 17 December 2003, the Committee began its consideration of the General Voluntary Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE).

50. The Chief of the NGO Section, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, briefed the Committee on the programme of the Network, which entailed networking and information exchanges among NGOs, capacity-building and training and the promotion of cooperation between civil society, Governments, the private sector and the United Nations on the themes of the Millennium Development Goals. The Fund is an initiative to concretize and implement those goals embraced by the Network.

51. Ms. Mezoui provided an overview of the Network's projects in the various regions and reminded the members of the Committee that the first regional network, UN-NGO-IRENE/Africa, was launched in Hammamet, Tunisia, in 2001, with 5 subregional coordinators. Eastern Europe was the second regional network, launched in 2003 in Bucharest. Preparatory work was currently undertaken with one of the subregional East European coordinators for participation at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 2004.

52. She stated that the Network was further expected to expand in 2004, with plans to launch other networks in the Arab, Asian and Latin America regions. In preparation for the establishment of the focal point in the Arab region, a mission to Dubai was undertaken in October 2003, and an advisory mission to Doha in December 2003. At a final stage before launching the network in Asia, the Non-Governmental Organization Section was organizing a capacity-building workshop and regional preparatory meeting to be held in Tokyo in February 2004. In view of promoting the activities of the Non-Governmental Organization Sector in the far north region, an initial step had recently been taken to establish a UN-NGO-IRENE in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States through a mission to Yakutsk City, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), in the Russian Federation.

53. Ms. Mezoui emphasized the importance of the concept of partnership in the work of the Non-Governmental Organization Section in both its outreach programme and its contribution to the advancement of Millennium Development Goal number 8, "Develop a global partnership for development". To this end, she informed the Committee that the Non-Governmental Organization Section had provided advisory services for the formulation of five technical cooperation projects designed to be implemented by coalitions of NGOs working in partnership with each other, with the Section and, in one case, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

54. Ms. Mezoui noted that partnership with NGOs had also taken the form of participation in the June 2003 board meeting of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO); support to and participation in the NGO Forum organized by that organization prior to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2003; collaboration with CONGO and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in the organization of the NGO Forum on 16 March 2003; and, co-sponsored by WFUNA, a series of interactive meetings that enabled participants from NGOs, foundations, permanent missions and the United Nations to exchange views on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including participation of a cross-section of some of the major stakeholders in development and potential partners, ranging from Heads of State to representatives of the World Bank. Another major joint undertaking described by Ms. Mezoui was the extensive involvement with the World Family Organization and the UN-NGO-IRENE regional coordinator for Latin America in the organization of the World Summit-Family plus

10, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in November 2004.

55. Finally, Ms. Mezoui spoke of the relationship that had been established with certain intergovernmental organizations and the assistance provided to these organizations as well as to NGOs participating in the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. The Non-Governmental Organization Section had worked with these organizations through every stage, from preparation of their input, through its presentation and follow-up in 2003, and it was already beginning the support process to ensuring a maximally effective contribution to the meeting in 2004.

56. Ms. Mezoui's presentation was followed by messages of appreciation expressed by several members of the Committee on the work accomplished by the Non-Governmental Organization Section. The representative of Turkey announced that his Government had decided to make a contribution of $10,000 to the General Voluntary Trust Fund. The Fund was established in 2002 to facilitate the enhancement of the overall cooperation and coordination of work among NGOs, their contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

IX. Provisional agenda for the session of the Committee in 2004

57. The Committee considered agenda item 10 at its 37th meeting, on 19 December 2003. It had before it a draft provisional agenda for its 2004 session in English only.

58. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 2004 session for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, draft decision II).

X. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its 2003 resumed session

59. At its 37th meeting, on 19 December 2003, the Committee adopted the draft report on its 2003 resumed session as contained in document E/C.2/2003/L.2, and in an informal paper, and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report, in consultation with the members of the Committee and its secretariat.

XI. Organization of the work of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

60. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its resumed 2003 session from 15 to 19 December 2003. The Committee held 10 meetings (28th to 37th meetings).

B. Attendance

61. Representatives of all the States members of the Committee attended the session: Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, United States of America, Zimbabwe.

62. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.

63. Representatives of the Holy See, a non-member State maintaining permanent observer mission at Headquarters, attended the session.

64. The 2003 session of the Committee heard four representatives of NGOs, who were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

C. Organization of work

65. At its 28th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee approved the organization of work for its resumed 2003 session in an informal paper. (For the agenda of the Committee at its 2003 session, see E/2003/32 (Part II), chap. IX, sect. C.)

D. Documentation

66. The list of documents before the Committee at its resumed 2003 session is contained in the annex.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its 2003 resumed session

Symbol	*Agenda*	*Title or description*
E/C.2/2003/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/C.2/2003/CRP.8	3 (a)	Compilation of applications for consultative status with the Council deferred from previous sessions
E/C.2/2003/CRP.12	3 (a)	Requests for reclassification deferred from the 2003 substantive session
E/C.2/20003/R.2/Add.6-14	3 (b)	Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2003/R.3/Add.1	3 (b)	Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new requests for consultative status
E/C.2/2003/2/Add. 11-17	4	Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/C.2/2003/CRP.9	4	Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions
E/C.2/2003/CRP.11	5	Conference room paper on the Paperless Committee
E/C.2/2003/CRP.10	7	Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295
E/C.2/2002/3/Add.1	8	Note by the Secretary-General containing special reports
E/C.2/2003/3 and Add.2	8	Note by the Secretary-General containing special reports
E/C.2/2003/L.2	11	Draft report